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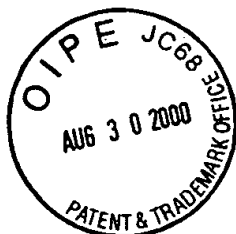
IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant : K. SEKIGUCHI

Appl. No : 09/577,569

Filed : May 25, 2000

For : GATEWAY APPARATUS FOR CONTROLLING APPARATUSES ON
HOME NETWORK



Group Art Unit: 2787

Examiner:

RECEIVED

SEP 1 2000

Group 2700

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT

Assistant Commissioner of Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Sir:

In accordance with the duty of disclosure under 37 C.F.R. §1.56, §1.97-1.98,
Applicant hereby calls the following documents to the Examiner's attention:

A Notice for Reason for the Rejection, along with an English language translation
thereof, which was issued by the Japanese Patent Office on May 30, 2000, for counterpart
Japanese Application No. HEI 11-156064 is enclosed, in which the following documents
were cited:

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-308758, to TAKESHI et
al., which was published on November 17, 1998, along with an English language Abstract
and an English language summary;

Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 10-126423, to TAKESHI et

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al., which was published on May 15, 1998, along with an English language Abstract of the same;

Japanese Publication No. HEI 11-187061 (corresponding to Japanese Laid-Open Patent Publication No. HEI 9-115685) to MIKIO et al., which was published on July 9, 1999, along with an English language Abstract and an English language summary of the same; and

An article entitled "Focus on Home Network" , published in the periodical, *Nikkei Communications*, on April 20, 1998, pages 138-147, along with an English language summary.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner consider the above materials and cite the documents. Copies of the above-noted documents are attached and have been listed on a PTO-1449 Form which is also attached hereto. Accordingly, the Examiner is requested to initial the appropriate spaces on the attached PTO-1449 Form and to return a copy of the Form to the Applicant with the next official communication in the present application to confirm consideration of these documents.

Applicant also bring to the Examiner's attention the following co-pending, commonly assigned patent application:

U.S. Patent Application No. 09/497,181 to SAWADA, entitled "Home Network Gateway Apparatus and Home Network Device", which was filed on February 3,

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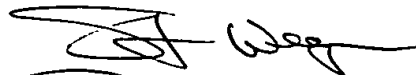
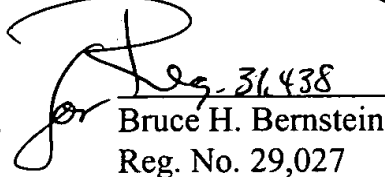
2000.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2)(iii), a copy of the above-mentioned application is not attached hereto. The Examiner is requested to review the file wrapper of this U.S. Patent Application at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. Of course, if for any reason the Examiner cannot locate the application, Applicant will provide any requested materials, if possible.

Applicant notes that an Office Action on the merits has not yet issued in the instant application. However, if an Office Action on the merits has issued, and is crossing in the mail with this statement, the undersigned hereby authorizes the Commissioner to charge any fee necessary for the consideration of this statement, including any payment under 37 C.F.R. §1.17(p), to be charged to Deposit Account No. 19-0089.

Should there be any questions, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the below-listed number.

Respectfully submitted,
K. SEKIGUCHI



for Reg. 36,438
Bruce H. Bernstein
Reg. No. 29,027

August 30, 2000
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